

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/809,262

REMARKS

Claims 17-24 have been examined. New claim 25 is added in this Amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claim 17, 18, 20-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jelinek (U.S. Patent 4,053,167). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when each element of the claimed subject matter is disclosed in the cited reference. Jelinek fails to teach each element of amended claim 17. Specifically, claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, that said projection extends circumferentially less than all of the way around said screw shaft. At least this recitation is not taught or suggested by Jelinek. The Examiner applies element 10 of Jelinek against the claimed retaining ring. However, as shown in Fig. 1 of Jelinek, element 10 is an annular member that completely extends around the screw shaft.

The features of the present invention provide a novel and unobvious feed screw device with benefits not found in the prior art. For example, by not having the projection extend all the way around the screw shaft, as shown in Fig. 19, an inner peripheral surface of the lubricant supply device can come in contact with an outer peripheral surface of the screw shaft so as to provide a proper engagement of the members. Thus, the present invention can obtain the beneficial effects as described, for example, and not by limitation, on page 37, lines 6-21.

Consequently, Jelinek does not anticipate claim 17, and the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should withdrawn. Jelinek also does not anticipate dependent claims 18, 20-22 and 24, at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 17.

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35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 19:

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jelinek in view of Spontelli (U.S. Patent 2,818,745). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner relies on Spontelli for an alleged disclosure of a feed screw device comprising a wiper assembly 17 comprising a cut part. The Examiner appears to be relying on the cleaning segments 24 for a teaching of the claimed cut part.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 is patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of it being dependent on claim 17. This is because Spontelli fails to make up for the deficient teaching of Jelinek in regard to claim 17. Thus, claim 19 is patentable over Jelinek in view of Spontelli, and the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claim 23:

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jelinek in view of Masutani et al. (U.S. Patent 5,401,574). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner relies on Masutani et al. for a sliding member comprising a fluorine resin containing carbon fibers. However, Masutani et al. fail to make up for the deficient teachings of Jelinek in regard to claim 17. Thus, claim 23 is patentable over Jelinek in view of Masutani et al. at least by virtue of it depending on independent claim 17. The rejection of claim 23 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

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NEW CLAIM:

Applicant adds new claim 25 to obtain more varied protection for the present invention.

This claim is patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of it depending on independent claim 17. Claim 25 further defines claim 19, and recites that said cut part extends from an innermost circumferential surface to an outermost circumferential surface of the lubricant supply device. This feature is not taught or suggested by the applied references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

17. (Twice Amended) A feed screw device comprising:
a screw shaft;
a nut member threadably engaging an outer periphery of the screw shaft;
a lubricant supply device having an insertion hole formed in an outer periphery side thereof, said lubricant supply device coming in contact with the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft, such that a portion of said lubricant supply device which contacts the outer peripheral surface of the screw shaft comprises a material including a lubricant;
a retaining ring for retaining said lubricant supply device, said retaining ring extends radially beyond the lubricant supply device; and
a projection formed on said retaining ring and disposed so as to be received in the insertion hole, such that said projection extends circumferentially less than all of the way around said screw shaft.

Claim 25 is added as a new claim.